



May 2026

Dear Rising 1st Grade Families,

We are excited to welcome you and your child to 1st grade in August! Rising 1st graders are developing many foundational skills that we encourage your child to practice this summer.

Self-Help/Independence Skills:

1st grade requires and builds upon independence and self-help skills learned in Primary School. Below are some independent skills 1st graders should have when they arrive at school:

- Put on and take off their jacket or sweater.
- Open and close their own water bottle and snack items.
- Use their own backpack: zip and unzip, put on and take off, correctly put things inside.
- Button and zip their own pants.
- Blow their own nose.
- Wash their hands using best practices (i.e., don't just put soap on hands and rinse).

Reading:

- We encourage you to spend time each week using this [website](#) to review kindergarten phonics and reading skills. This website is structured into 9 weeks of skill and reading practice with material for 5 days a week. While we are not requiring that each child complete all of the activities and sessions, we do feel that these activities are most beneficial.
- Spend time daily reading with your child! Use the [HAISLN list](#) of recommended books as a guide to what to read!
- Sign up for some summer reading challenges and even earn prizes!
 - [Houston Public Library](#)
 - [Harris County Public Library](#)
 - [Barnes and Noble](#)

Math Activities

- Practice counting by ones, twos, fives, and tens!
- Count sets of objects up to 100!
- We recommend the following games that will keep your skills and mind sharp over the summer:
 - www.splashlearn.com
 - www.mathplayground.com

Have a wonderful summer,
Your 1st Grade Teachers